

(received via email)

From: Randy Burleson
To: Sue McConnell
Date: 4/1/2009 5:28 AM
Subject: CGS Trail Assessment
Attachments: ole5.bmp; April Draft Minutes ; Ratings: Rubicon Oversight Committee (ROC);
FW: Big Sluice Work Plan: El Dorado County; Fw: Task Brainstorm; RE: ROC A
genda

In a cooperative effort between El Dorado County's Department of Transportation and the California State Park's Department of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation, California Geological Survey (CGS) undertook a Trail Assessment for the El Dorado portions of the Rubicon Trail. Using extensive on-the-trail survey, high-definition GPS, and a database Geographical Information System (GIS), CGS employees are nearing completion on the Trail Assessment. CGS has presented an overview of this Trail Assessment at several meetings, but the final product is not yet available for public release, so I'm providing this summary based on sitting through three of those presentations.

Future - Prioritized Trail Assessment

This Trail Assessment is a critical tool, a 'punch list' of what needs done, with suggested priorities as follows, based on sediment delivery:

- * Green - no sediment delivery to watercourses, no immediate action required
- * Yellow - potentially may deliver sediment to watercourses, watch for impacts and escalate as necessary
- * Red - likely delivers sediment to watercourses, evaluate trail for work in the near-term

If you look at the Trail Assessment map in color, most of the trail is green, with a portion in yellow, and a smaller portion in red. This underlines the general health of the trail, and shows that while there are opportunities to improve, the majority of the trail is not delivering sediment to waters of the state.

Past - Team Ranking Exercise

In the past, El Dorado County's ad-hoc Rubicon Oversight Committee (ROC) has set priorities annually and escalated smaller issues as needed during the year. This generally has taken the form of group evaluation of potential projects by rating them from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important) based on the following categories:

- potential physical loss of trail (does loss of section, put trail at risk? does bypass exist?)
- environmental improvement (what's the environmental risk of

NOT doing it?)

- safety (does section pose threat to user safety, as it exists?)
- user satisfaction upon completion (will users consent that the result is good?)
- story (how attractive is this, in terms of headlines?)

Individuals make individual ratings, and then the group aggregates the numbers of the individual ratings into group ratings (see examples, attached):

* 2007:
<<April Draft Minutes >> <<Ratings: Rubicon Oversight Committee (ROC)>> <<FW: Big Sluice Work Plan: El Dorado County>>
* 2008:
<<Fw: Task Brainstorm>> <<RE: ROC Agenda>>

Samples of Trail Assessment Contents

The CGS Trail Assessment has a wide assortment of information built into it - it can track pictures and date to GPS points from year to year, providing quick, visual reference on how stable the trail is. The Trail Assessment also allows quick data analysis on multiple indices, a short list of which is below.

- * 40% of the trail crosses granite (versus soil)
- * 36 watercourses are suggested to receive cross-drainage structures (almost all of these crossings are ephemeral and can be solved via construction of a rolling dip)
- * 91 water bars / water breaks are suggested to get water off the trail and prevent flow of water along the trail (most of these are old

access to dispersed camping, and a few are at intersections to alternate trail routings)

* Total length of trail assessed: 61,442'

* 1853' of trail would be protected from flooding with these water diversions

* 5,600' of the trail is subject to seasonal flooding, 4,600' of the trail is subject to periodic non-seasonal flooding

* 9 proposed trail reroutes (not all have been walked out on the ground)

Note that these are preliminary numbers that are very close to finalization, but that they may be subject to slight changes as CGS works through the data further.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Randii

Randy Burleson

frequent user and volunteer in the Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR) and Friends of the Eldorado National Forest (FOEnf)

member of Sierra Treasure Hunters Club, California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Blue Ribbon Coalition

<<Paintbrush Picture>>